

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 COME-00 XMB-07 EB-24 CAB-09

CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00

L-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SIL-01 LAB-06 DRC-01 AID-20 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 SS-20 NSC-07 SP-03 CIEP-03 /179 W

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R 011426Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 564

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

FAA BRUSSELS

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DEPT PASS COMMERCE FOR COHEN AND EXIMBANK FOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IN

SUBJECT: AIR-INDIA PRESENT STATUS AND LINES OF DEVELOPMENT

REF: NEW DELHI 10041

SUMMARY: LOCKHEED L-1011-1 TRISTAR DEMONSTRATION BOMBAY
LAST WEEK GAVE RCAA DWOR AND EMBASSY CIVAIR OFFICER
PARKER OPPORTUNITY TO ASSESS AIR-INDIA PLANNED FLEET EXPANSION
PROGRAM. AIR-INDIA SIGNED LETTER-OF-INTENT FOR FIFTH BOEING
747-237B, VALUED AT \$34 MILLION, ON SEPTEMBER 15. FURTHER,
AIRLINE APPEARS TO HAVE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR MINIMUM FIVE
WIDEBODED TRIJETS, VALUED APPROXIMATELY \$160 MILLION, INCLUDING
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SPARES, FOR DELIVERY BETWEEN 1977 AND 1980. END SUMMARY.

1. K.G. APPUSAMY, AIR-INDIA DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR, INDICATES HIS AIRLINE HAS REQUIREMENT TO REPLACE ITS PRESENT FLEET OF THREE BOEING 707-327B AND TWO 707-327C AIRCRAFT COMMENCING IN 1977, DUE TO CRITICALLY HIGH COST OF JET FUEL AVAILABLE TO AIR-INDIA, AND THE CONSEQUENTIAL URGENCY TO ACHIEVE LOWER FUEL BURN-OFF PER AVAILABLE SEAT MILE WITH NEW WIDEBODIED AIRCRAFT. ALTHOUGH APPUSAMY IS HIGHLY PLEASED WITH AIR-INDIA'S PRESENT FLEET OF 747-237B'S (DESPITE RECURRING HOT-SECTION PROBLEM WITH JT9D-7 ENGINES CAUSING FOUR PREMATURE ENGINE REMOVALS DURING LAST SIX WEEKS) FOR HIGH-DENSITY INDIA-LONDON-NEW YORK SERVICES, HE BELIEVES AIRLINE REQUIRES SLIGHTLY SMALLER AIRCRAFT IN CATEGORY OF LOCKHEED L-1011-200 (OR MCDONNELL DOUGLAS DC-10-30/40) TO HANDLE AIRLINE'S LOWER-DENSITY ROUTES TO EAST AFRICA, MAURITIUS, ARABIAN GULF AND FAR EAST (HONG KONG-OSAKA-TYKYO).

2. R. VEKATARAMAN, AIR-INDIA DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, INDICATES STUDIES SHOW REQUIREMENT FOR AIRLINE TO PLACE ORDER SPRING 1975 FOR TWO WIDEBODIED TRIJETS, WITH THREE ADDITIONAL OPTIONS OR SECOND-BUYS, FOR DELIVERY 1977.

3. C.V.R. RAO, AIR-INDIA FINANCIAL CONTROLLER, STATES AIRLINE SIGNED LETTER-OF-INTENT FOR FIFTH BOEING 747-237B, VALUED AT \$34 MILLION, ON SEPTEMBER 15, FOR DELIVERY DECEMBER 1975. THIS AIRCRAFT WILL PROBABLY REPLACE 707-327B/C'S ON AIRLINE'S TWICE-WEEKLY SERVICES INDIA-AUSTRALIA AND WILL ALSO PROBABLY REPLACE A WEEKLY 707-327B/C SERVICE BOMBAY-DHAHRAN-CAIRO-GENEVA-LONDON.

4. AIR-INDIA'S PRESENT FLEET CONSISTS OF FOUR BOEING 747-237B'S DEPLOYED ON SEVEN ROUND TRIPS WEEKLY BOMBAY-NEW DELHI-MIDDLE EAST-EUROPE-LONDON-NEW YORK AND ONE ROUNDTRIP WEEKLY BOMBAY-NEW DELHI-BEIRUT-GENEVA-LONDON; FOUR OBSOLETE AND FULLY-DEPRECIATED BOEING 707-437'S (EARMARKED FOR EARLY RETIREMENT AND POSSIBLE SALE TO INDIAN AIR FORCE) PLUS THREE BOEING 707-327B'S AND TWO BOEING 707-327C'S DEPLOYED ON TWO ROUNDTRIPS WEEKLY BOMBAY-MADRAS-SINGAPORE-PERTH-SIDNEY, FOUR ROUNDTRIPS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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WEEKLY BOMBAY-NEW DELHI-CALCUTTA-BANGKOK-HONG KONG-TYKYO, TWO ROUNDTRIPS WEEKLY BOMBAY-NEW DELHI-CALCUTTA-BANGKOK-HONG KONG-OSAKA, TWO ROUNDTRIPS WEEKLY BOMBAY-MAURITIUS, THREE ROUNDTRIPS WEEKLY BOMBAY-ADEN-ADDIS ABBABA-NAIROBI, SIX ROUNDTRIPS WEEKLY BOMBAY-GULF, TWO ROUNDTRIPS WEEKLY BOMBAY-NEW DELHI-TEHRAN-MOSCOW AND ALSO WETLEASED SERVICES TO INDIAN AIRLINES AS FOLLOWS: BOMBAY-NEW DELHI, SEVEN ROUNDTRIPS WEEKLY; BOMBAY-MADRAS, SEVEN ROUNDTRIPS WEEKLY; AND BOMBAY-CALCUTTA, SEVEN ROUNDTRIPS WEEKLY.

5. AIR-INDIA'S CURRENT DISPUTE AND STRIKE WITH ITS
PILOTS, REVOLVING AROUND ISSUE OF SLIP-CREWING, APPEARS
CLOSE TO RESOLUTION AND AIR-INDIA'S SCHEDULES, AS OF
PAST WEEKEND, VERY CLOSE TO NORMAL. IN ANY ACQUISITION OF
WIDEBODIED TRIJETS, AIR-INDIA'S OFFICERS EMPHASIZE CRITICAL
SECTOR WOULD PROBABLY BE BOMBAY-MAURITIUS: 2,722 NAUTICAL
MILES.
GODLEY

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